

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 12, 1876, with transcript

Home, March 12th, 76. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

Your letter of yesterday's receipt conveys distressing information. I hope the final result may prove that the Browns have given up a good thing. Since you feel so certain of the ground on which you are working, don't let their defection dishearten you. I suppose you will now have to give up expectation of profit from English and foreign patents and you should endeavour to realize on your American patents as soon as possible. Mabel's illness is I trust, only a passing one, and no cause for serious apprehension. I don't feel at ease in reference to my proposed visit to you. I am not prepared for any "public meeting". I never could extemporize on such occasions and must not attempt it. Since you seem to have set your head on my appearance before your class, I have resolved to go, but you frighten me by talk of a "public meeting". This would require preparation for which I have no time or inclination. I have promised to give a course of six lectures at Syracuse University next winter, and I could at that season extend my visit to Boston and engage in any public work. But I must always know what I have to do, and have ample time for preparation. At present I have no idea what you propose to hold a public meeting for, and I have not time to undertake any address I have arranged matters at the Ladies' College so that I can pay you a short visit. I fancy from your last letter that the end of this month will be the best time for me. I shall therefore unless you instruct me otherwise, arrange so as to arrive at Boston on Saturday the 25th, or Sunday the 26th. If you wish any alteration in this plan, let me know at once. You did not say if you had received the China letter. I am just getting rid of a bad cold, the first of an old species which I have had for many years. Tenders for your Uncle's house building are to be received until the 18th, inst. I suppose the work will be commenced very soon after that date. Mamma will add a few lines. No news. All well. Wet weather today.

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Love to Mabel and yourself, Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.